

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2015

Contact: Sean Lynch

slynch@acteonline.org, 703-683-9312

ACTE Announces Virginia Associate Extension Specialist as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces George Andrew Seibel, an associate extension specialist at Virginia Tech University in Roanoke, Virginia, as the winner of the 2015 ACTE Region II Carl Perkins Community Service Award. The Carl Perkins Community Service Award is presented to ACTE members who have used CTE to make a significant impact on a community/humanitarian cause through leadership in programs and activities that promote community involvement. This award was named in honor of the late Congressman Perkins, and is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the same humanitarian concerns exemplified by Congressman Perkins.

A three-time CTE graduate of Virginia Tech, Seibel has dedicated his life to bettering Virginia communities through civic and local engagements that allow him to take classroom teaching outward. CTE has provided the platform for his successful career, spanning 16 years as an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, 13 years as a state FFA specialist and currently as associate extension specialist at Virginia Tech, for which he develops hands-on, community-based outreach programming. Examples of his accomplishments include: working with the local alumni chapter to secure a \$25,000 annual grant used to purchase tractors that were rebuilt and refurbished to be sold in the local community; allocating rural rehabilitation grant funding annually to schools working in conjunction with local civic organizations on community betterment projects; initiating an endowment funding program for state career development event awards; establishing a leave-a-legacy endowed scholarship program to create impact by connecting families and future leaders; and working with U.S. congressional members to ensure that students in their constituency are recognized with a personal congratulatory letter for placement in national-level career development events.

Among the thousands of students Seibel has influenced over the past 29 years, many have gone on to successful careers as engaged community members; 31 former students and FFA officers have pursued agricultural education careers where they are influencing future leaders. Carly T. Woolfok, agricultural education specialist for the Virginia Department of Education, says Seibel “has pushed me to levels I never thought imaginable, and continues to be an inspiration to myself and others all across the state of Virginia.”

Seibel is one of five finalists for the 2016 national title. The national winner will be announced at the ACTE Awards Banquet, a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event will take place on Thursday evening, November 19, during ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Awards Banquet is sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, Kuder, CareerSafe, Certiport, and Stratasys. For more

information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, visit our webpage www.acteonline.org/awards.

About ACTE

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

###